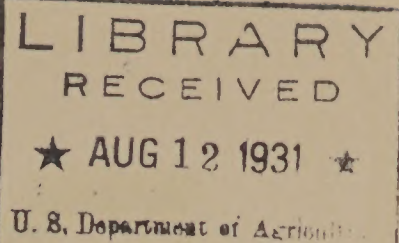


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MEETING - PROGRESSIVE GARDEN CLUB

A radio discussion by members of the Progressive Garden Club, W. R. Beattie, Bureau of Plant Industry, presiding, delivered through WRC and 42 other radio stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, Tuesday, July 28, 1931.

ANNOUNCER:

Today, we present another of those popular meetings of the Progressive Garden Club, and while the number attending the meeting is smaller than usual those present are very much in earnest and I think you will be interested in their discussion. Just a moment and we will join them around the big table in their meeting room.

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CHAIRMAN:

Well folks, here we are again, ready for another meeting of the club. How-do-you-do Mrs. Brown? Is Mr. Brown coming to the meeting?

MRS. BROWN:

No, Mr. Brown has gone on a fishing trip for a few days and will not be here today, but I want you to meet my daughter Betty who is home from school for the summer.

CHAIRMAN:

How-do-you-do Miss Betty, - hope you will enjoy our meeting.

BETTY BROWN:

Thank you. I am sure I shall enjoy being here. Mother has been telling me about the good times she and Daddy have been having at the club meetings.

CHAIRMAN:

Now folks, as our attendance is rather small today suppose we all gather around the big table. Mr. Mulford, as you are our "Guest Artist" as they say over the radio, we would like for you to sit at the head of the table. Now Mrs. Brown, if you and Miss Betty will take these chairs - - does anybody know if Aunt Polly is coming today? It really don't seem like a meeting of the club without Mr. Brown and Aunt Polly being present.

MRS. BROWN:

Aunt Polly has gone on a visit to some of her relatives - - wouldn't tell anybody where she was going - said it was a secret but that we would all hear from her.

(over)

CHAIRMAN:

You don't say - well, Aunt Polly is always springing surprises on us. Now folks let's get down to business. Our subject today should be of interest to everyone and especially to people who live on farms and who cannot get away from home during the hot weather. We are going to discuss the subject of "Keeping Cool in Summertime." How does that appeal to you?

MRS. BROWN:

That sounds good to me, but the question is, how are you going to keep cool when the thermometer is around 100 degrees every day?

CHAIRMAN:

That's so, but there are a good many aids to keeping cool in summertime. - First of all, don't fret or worry or even get angry - wear cool clothing, eat plenty of fresh vegetables from your own garden and so on. But that was not the thought I had in mind when I proposed the topic of "Keeping Cool in Summertime" for our discussion today.

MRS. BROWN:

Well, I have my idea as to the best way to keep cool these hot days, - it is to go to the beach or to some mountain lake or stream and simply rest instead of remaining at home to cook, wash, and iron and do the housework. I know it is true that very few farm women can be spared at this time of the year.

CHAIRMAN:

But Mrs. Brown, you had a little vacation this summer, did you not?

MRS. BROWN:

True enough, I had a couple of weeks visit with my sister, and now Mr. Brown is off for a few days, but precious few farmers or farm women can afford to be away from home during the summer.

CHAIRMAN:

Exactly so, in fact, in proposing our topic for today I did not have in mind that we should all go to some cool spot and do nothing in order to keep cool, but to provide a few aids to summer comfort at home. When I was a boy on the farm, my mother cooked for harvest hands on a coal stove in a kitchen having a low ceiling and poor ventilation. Today most of the cooking is done with oil, gas, or sometimes with electricity, and besides, our kitchens are lighter and better ventilated. What I had in mind to talk about today was screened-in porches, vine covered summer houses, plenty of shade trees around the house, comfortable lawn swings and lawn furniture, places to hang a hammock, green grass and flowers to soften the glare of the sunlight and give the home surroundings a cool, restful appearance.

MRS. BROWN:

I know of a farm home that answers that description almost to a letter. I always have admired that place.

CHAIRMAN:

Now folks, I scarcely need introduce Mr. Furman Lloyd Mulford, landscape specialist of the Department, to this audience - he is really one of us, and at this time I am going to ask Mr. Mulford to give us a few suggestions regarding the value of trees around the home. Are trees very important as a means of making our hot summer days more endurable, Mr. Mulford?

MR. MULFORD:

Yes. The most important adjunct to a house for transforming it into a home is plenty of shade about it. The greatest difference in the appearance of houses in the older sections of the country, and the newer portions, is in the matter of shade near the house. Most of this is due to the greater prevalence of trees in the older sections of the country, but not altogether. Often, houses are built in the open when there are trees within reach. This happens in all parts of the country but I think more frequently in those regions where trees are relatively scarce than in better timbered sections. Although a house should have plenty of shade about it, it should not be smothered in trees. Many homes in the older parts of the country have too many trees about them.

CHAIRMAN:

What would be your ideal, Mr. Mulford, as regards the number and arrangement of the trees around the farm home?

MR. MULFORD:

The ideal is probably to have a group of trees at each end of the house so located as to provide good shade at these points and yet to leave the front of the house open to view and to some sunshine. If tall trees are located at each end the branches may arch up and almost meet overhead but leave the front of the house fully open to view. Probably the nearest to an ideal arrangement is to have the house on the north side of an east and west road, set back 400 feet or more, with the drive coming in along the west side with a liberal turn-around there and the entrance on that side of the house. In the turn-around and beyond there should be two or three large trees to protect from the afternoon sun. At the east end of the house a grove of trees to form an outdoor sitting room that will be especially comfortable in the afternoon. The trees of each of these groups to extend far enough to the front to provide a suitable framing for the front and to give a little shade without covering the front of the house. These trees should be placed and spaced irregularly, not in pairs or in lines. They should be deciduous trees, not evergreens, and be of kinds adapted to the particular soil and climate.

MRS. BROWN:

Mr. Mulford, our chairman mentioned vine covered summer houses and screened porches, - what do you think of these?

MR. MULFORD:

Everything possible should be done to encourage outdoor living in the country. Such porches as are built should be wide and short so as to darken as few windows as possible. Porches should always be from ten to twelve feet wide. Often, spaces adjoining the roofed portion

may be made into a terrace to be used under the open sky especially in late afternoon and after dark. Occasionally paved areas under the trees are enjoyable but these must be obviously connected with the house or garden in some way, to be appropriate. Often, such outdoor areas may be covered with a pergola or with a roof. In any event, they should not stand out in the open lawn but should either be in a nook of the plantings or be an integral part of the garden. An extended outlook from porches or summer houses is desirable, though not essential, as a good garden view will suffice or even an outlook over an open lawn. A garden view from the house with a pool and a summer house or pergola at the far end with vines about it makes a picture that is an invitation to loiter or to eat outdoors.

MRS. BROWN:

We have a screened south porch that is covered with clematis vines. When I have peas to shell or beans to snap for dinner, I turn on the radio and listen to the morning programs while I go on with my work and cool off in the porch. The vines completely enclose the porch from top to bottom and cut off most too much air.

MR. MULFORD:

Mrs. Brown, your south porch with the vines straight up and down deprives you unnecessarily of air without in other ways adding to your comfort. It is often necessary to have a solid mass of vines on an east or west exposure to protect from the sun in the early morning or the late afternoon, but on the south side a support for the vines built like an awning is better. This should extend outward about four feet from beneath the eaves of the porch and the lower edge be about six feet above the porch floor. The slope may be covered with a coarse mesh wire, preferably a light fencing, with meshes larger than two inches, and the vines may be permitted to clamber over this. It acts like the visor of a cap or the brim of a hat, shading the porch from the mid-day sun, but permitting the air to circulate freely beneath it.

MRS. BROWN:

That is a good suggestion and I am going to ask Mr. Brown to change it for me this fall so that I can have the vines growing on the sloping support next year. It will look like a real awning. Betty, suppose you tell the folks how you keep cool these hot days?

CHAIRMAN:

Yes, Betty, perhaps in your studies of science at school you have found some magic way to keep cool in summertime!

BETTY BROWN:

It is true, science has taught me many ways to keep cool and comfortable these hot days, but there is no magic about it, - just common sense ways of living, - then, when mother can spare me, I don my bathing suit and jump into our swimming pool.

CHAIRMAN:

Do you mean the "old swimming hole" down by the big sycamore tree at the creek where the boys used to dive and frolic on hot summer days?

BETTY BROWN:

No indeed, I mean a real pool right near the house - Daddy built it for me summer before last. It is made of concrete blocks laid in cement and cemented on the inside with water-proof cement. Our pool is 18 feet wide, 25 feet long, 5 feet deep and holds about twelve thousand gallons of water.

CHAIRMAN:

Twelve thousand gallons! Where in the world do you get so much water?

BETTY BROWN:

We pump it from a small stream that flows through the meadow just below the house. We use an old automobile engine to run the pump.

CHAIRMAN:

That certainly is fine. I am sure you and your friends must enjoy your swimming pool these hot days.

BETTY BROWN:

Indeed we do, and every one of us have learned to be good swimmers, and dive, - Oh Boy! you ought to see us dive.

CHAIRMAN:

Quite a number of people living on farms are building swimming pools, but anyone contemplating the construction of a pool should be sure of an abundant supply of water, because the pool has to be drained and cleaned quite often. Spring water is often too cold for bathing purposes; however, if the pool is located in the full sunlight, the water will become quite warm. A swimming pool is just one more way of keeping cool in summertime.

MRS. BROWN:

I've been wanting to ask Mr. Mulford about lawn furniture. A neighbor bought some rustic chairs and seats for her lawn but they are very uncomfortable to sit in, the backs are too straight and the seats too narrow. Can't this type of furniture be made for comfort?

MR. MULFORD:

Certainly, but it is often a problem to find pieces of natural wood of the right shape and having the proper curve for the back supports of the seats. Rustic lawn furniture should be made of cedar or other durable material, and above all, it should be comfortable to sit in. Lawn swings made of sawed materials can be kept well painted to protect them from the weather but it is a good plan to store all lawn furniture that is made of wood under shelter during the rainy season and the winter. Wicker furniture is adapted for use on porches and this is the best type from the standpoint of real comfort. Wicker chairs and other furniture can be painted in various shades of green, grey, or brown to harmonize with its surroundings. Chairs and settees made from whiteoak splints are also very comfortable and are adapted for use in summer houses having roofs to shed the rain.

(over)

CHAIRMAN:

I would like to have you tell the folks what you think of concrete and stone furniture and ornaments for the lawn.

MR. MULFORD:

This type of lawn equipment is all right under certain conditions. Much, however, depends upon the proper location and use. In some cases they are entirely out of keeping with their surroundings. The proper location for a lawn seat, for example, is in a recess or a hollow place in a group of shrubbery, well to the background and never out in front where it is not flanked or relieved by plantings of some kind. Seats and chairs properly belong under the trees where the shade invites one to sit and rest on a hot summer day, or in sheltered nooks, and summer houses where there is both shade and seclusion.

MRS. BROWN:

What do you think of having vases or urns filled with blooming plants and trailing vines, Mr. Mulford?

MR. MULFORD:

The same principles apply to these as to the benches and artificial decorations on the lawn. They have their proper place and when not in their proper place they detract rather than add to the effect. They should only be used in connection with some architectural feature such as a formal walk, steps, entrance to a garden, or in connection with a pergola about a formal pool.

CHAIRMAN:

How about having an iron dog or other animals on the lawn?

MR. MULFORD:

I want a real live dog or no dog at all. No, I want the flowers, the shrubbery, and the trees and a little well-selected lawn furniture, but no imitations of animals on my lawn, or in my garden, if you please.

MRS. BROWN:

I want the trees and plenty of shady porches where I can work and rest. I am willing to stay at home during the hot weather but I do want plenty of shade around the house.

CHAIRMAN:

Good shade trees around our homes contribute very greatly to our comfort in summer. There are trees suitable for growing in every part of the country and it is largely a matter of selecting the right kinds for planting.

MR. MULFORD:

Much depends upon the way the trees are planted and cared for. Trees are just like any other crop: they require good soil and proper care. They must be protected from insects and sometimes from diseases. They occasionally need pruning and fertilizing, but there is nothing that repays the care given it as does a good shade tree planted near the house where its shade will help those living in the house to keep cool in summertime.

CHAIRMAN:

Thank you, Mr. Mulford, for your many excellent suggestions. I hope you have all enjoyed our little discussion of "keeping cool in summertime," as much as we have enjoyed giving it. The next meeting of the club will be held on August 18th, the third Tuesday of the month instead of the fourth Tuesday, and until then the club stands adjourned.

THE SECRETARY OF THE
TREASURY
WASHINGTON
D. C.
JANUARY 1, 1900
SIR:
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th inst. in relation to the matter of the proposed amendment to the National Bank Act, and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Yours very truly,
J. M. WILSON
Secretary of the Treasury